

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 AID-05 EB-07 AGRE-00
INT-05 /102 W

-----211106Z 121479 /14

R 210834Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4438
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1724

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SU, FR
SUBJECT: NIMEIRI VISIT TO FRANCE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. NIMEIRI RETURNING KHARTOUM SATURDAY, MAY 21, FOLLOWING
APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL STATE VISIT TO FRANCE. BASED ON
PRESS REPORTS, INCLUDING NIMEIRI PRESS CONFERENCES IN PARIS
AND ALEXANDRIA, APPEARS FRENCH AND SUDANESE GOVERNMENTS
WERE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT ON REGIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES,
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AND FRENCH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE LIKELY EXPAND.

2. IN ALEXANDRIA PRESS CONFERENCE NIMEIRI ANNOUNCED
FRANCE WILLING AID SUDAN AND SELL QUOTE NEEDED UNQUOTE
WEAPONS. JOINT SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WILL FIX
TYPES OF WEAPONS AND DRAFT A PROGRAM FOR THIS PURPOSE.
NIMEIRI ALSO ANNOUNCED FRANCE WILL OFFER LOAN OF

400 MILLION FRANCS TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION KENANA SUGAR PROJECT AND ANOTHER 26 MILLION FRANCS FOR TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT AND TO CONDUCT STUDIES FOR JONGLEI CANAL PROJECT. FRANCE AND SUDAN ALSO AGREED COOPERATE IN AGRICULTURE AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT, AND NIMEIRI AND GISCARD STRESSED NEED TO QUICKLY REACH AGREEMENT ON SAFEGUARDING RIGHTS OF (FRENCH) INVESTORS.

3. IN PARIS PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 17 NIMEIRI DISCUSSED FOREIGN RELATIONS. HE WAS EXPLICIT IN CRITICIZING CUBA, USSR, ETHIOPIA AND LIBYA. HE SAID ETHIOPIAN LEADERSHIP FOLLOWING SOVIET POLICY AND IMPLEMENTING ITS STRATEGY. HE SAID USSR USING ALL ITS WEIGHT TO DOMINATE AFRICA POLITICALLY. NIMEIRI SAID BIGGEST MISTAKE COMMITTED BY AFRICA IS ACCEPTANCE CUBAN MILITARISM WHICH WAS DISGUISED UNDER PRETEXT OF LIBERATING ANGOLA. NIMEIRI CRITICIZED SOVIET ARMS BUILD-UP IN LIBYA. HE REITERATED SUDANESE THEME THAT ERITREA IS INTERNATIONAL ISSUE THAT WAS SUBJECT TO UN TRUSTEESHIP AND THEREFORE ERITREANS DESERVE SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. NIMEIRI PRAISED FRENCH ROLE IN DJIBOUTI AND PROMISED SUDAN WOULD DO EVERYTHING TO HELP CONSOLIDATE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF DJIBOUTI. END UNCLASSIFIED

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4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS PARIS VISIT WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, PRESS REPORTS AND NIMEIRI PRESS CONFERENCE SUGGEST VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL
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FROM SUDANESE POINT OF VIEW. NIMEIRI APPEARS TO HAVE GAINED SIGNIFICANT FRENCH COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, ALTHOUGH WE DOUBT 400 MILLION FRANC KENANA LOAN REPRESENTS NEW RESOURCES OF THAT MAGNITUDE AVAILABLE TO SUDAN. IT MAY, HOWEVER, BE CONVERSION OF DEBT INTO EQUITY, AND IN ANY CASE, IT SIGNALS FRENCH SUPPORT FOR CONTROVERSIAL KENANA SUGAR PROJECT WHICH HAS HAD EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. FYI- FRENCH ARE MAJOR EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS. END FYI. KENANA IS IMPORTANT FOR NIMEIRI AS SYMBOL OF SUDANESE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND HE HAS PLACED HIS PRESTIGE BEHIND PROJECT. WILLINGNESS FRENCH SELL ARMS TO SUDAN ALSO IMPORTANT AS SUDAN GOV ATTEMPTS DIVERSIFY ITS SOURCES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOLLOWING RECENT EXPULSION SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS. IN HIS VISIT TO PARIS, NIMEIRI ATTEMPTED OBTAIN AND THEN PUBLICIZE SUPPORT FROM A KEY COUNTRY IN ADDITION TO THAT HE BELIEVES HE HAS FROM ARAB STATES AND U.S. WE ANTICIPATE HE WILL STRESS SIMILAR THEMES IN HIS VISIT NEXT MONTH TO PEKING.
BOGOSIAN

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Message Attributes

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